

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026!

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GLOBAL

1. Kigali Amendment latest ratifications

Congratulations to the latest countries that have ratified the Kigali Amendment in 2025:



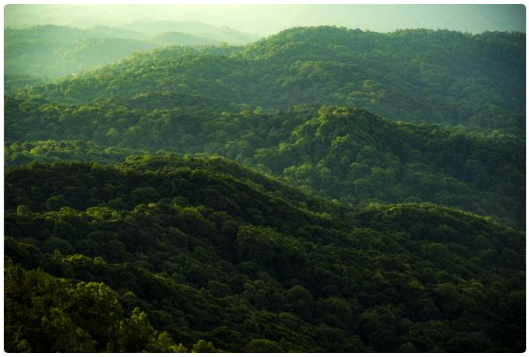
Malta, 19 December 2025
Azerbaijan, 24 November 2025
Mauritania, 11 November 2025
Central African Republic, 15 October 2025
Pakistan, 22 October 2025
Brunei Darussalam, 18 September 2025
Saudi Arabia, 10 September 2025
St. Kitts and Nevis, 29 August 2025
Nepal, 6 August 2025

At the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, held in Kigali from 10 to 15 October 2016, the Parties adopted, in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 4 of article 9 of the 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, a further amendment to the Montreal Protocol as set out in Annex I to the report of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Parties (Decision XXVIII/1).

Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, Status of Ratification 15 October 2016 to date.

Source: UN Treaty Collection | Image by Shutterstock

2. 2025: a milestone year for Montreal Protocol implementation



In 2025, the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol marked a milestone year for project approvals and policy decisions. Across the 96th and 97th meetings of the Executive Committee, 286 projects were approved for 101 countries and one global project, with funding totaling US $138,203,912. Of these, 117 projects addressed HCFCs (US $57,786,027), 109 supported HFC phase-down under the Kigali Amendment (US $52,598,262) and 60 covered other projects (US $27,819,623). These decisions reinforced the Fund's role in sustaining Montreal Protocol obligations and helping Article 5 countries go beyond compliance to maximize climate and energy gains from their transitions.

Advancing ambitious HFC phase-down pathways

In 2025, several Article 5 countries adopted forward-looking Kigali HFC Implementation Plans (KIPs), approved by the Executive Committee. Stage I of Egypt's KIP puts the country on track to reduce HFC consumption by 15 per cent by 2029 and 22 per cent by 2030, ahead of Montreal Protocol schedules, combining clear bans on specific high global-warming-potential (GWP)

refrigerants. Lebanon's KIP sets similarly ambitious targets – 15 per cent below baseline by 2029 and 40 per cent by 2032 – despite prolonged economic and political challenges and pairs an operational licensing and quota system with targeted conversions in residential air conditioning and commercial refrigeration.

Small island economies also moved ahead. Fiji's stage I KIP established a structured path to reduce HFC consumption by 10 per cent by 2029 as cooling demand rises in the tourism and fisheries sectors. In South Africa, stage I of the KIP strengthened regulatory and institutional frameworks to manage rising HFC consumption, including the introduction of an HFC import quota system and measures to support the conversion of small commercial refrigeration manufacturers to low-GWP technologies. Alongside these KIPs, the Executive Committee also advanced HCFC phase-out, including approval of stage III of Argentina's HCFC Phase-out Management Plan to complete HCFC phase-out by 2030 while modernizing key refrigeration sectors.

Improvements in life-cycle refrigerant management

In 2025, efforts to improve refrigeration and air-conditioning servicing practices were complemented by growing attention to the full life cycle of refrigerants. Building on work in many Article 5 countries to strengthen technician skills, licensing and enforcement, the Executive Committee advanced the policy groundwork for life-cycle refrigerant management (LRM). Discussions at its 97th meeting underlined the need for sustainable financing and stronger regulatory frameworks to address banks of ozone-depleting substances and HFCs. To date, the Multilateral Fund has supported 128 Article 5 countries in the preparation of inventories and action plans for collection, transport and disposal of controlled substances, while recognizing ongoing challenges in data, regulation and viable models for recovery and destruction. Insights from this work will inform future cost guidelines and funding modalities for a dedicated LRM funding window, expected to be considered at the 100th meeting, preparing countries for implementation and for the next generation of LRM policy decisions. Read more…

Source/image: Multilateral Fund Secretariat, 22 December 2025

RELATED:

- Advancing the global impact – The Multilateral Fund in 2025
- **VIDEO**: 2025 End-of-year review – Celebrating the wins, reflecting on challenges and gearing up for 2026! – The Ozone Secretariat

3. UNIDO secures US$ 57 million project funding to protect the ozone layer and deliver climate benefits



Montreal, Canada, 1-5 December 2025 - The Ninety-seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol approved record funding for UNIDO projects across 44 countries. At the meeting, the Committee approved 72 projects submitted by UNIDO, as one of the implementing agencies under the Protocol, with an expected total allocation of 57 million dollars. This brings the

total funding secured by UNIDO for ozone protection and climate action in 2025 to almost US$ 80 million.

Examples of approved UNIDO Projects include:

- Argentina's stage III of the national programme on ozone depleting substances (ODS) phase out aims to eliminate the remaining consumption of these substances by 2030. It includes conversions in commercial refrigeration, aerosol production, and servicing sectors, supported by strengthened national policies and training programmes. Eleven SMEs will be assisted to adopt low-carbon hydrocarbon refrigerants. Incentive schemes will help drive large-scale replacement of technologies in supermarket sector. Suitable alternatives will be identified for high-leakage fishing vessels. Recovery capacity of refrigerant for reuse and safe destruction will be also expanded.
- The national energy efficiency programme in Egypt will upgrade 19 enterprises operating 28 facilities across refrigeration and air-conditioning subsectors. It will support the production of higher-efficiency domestic refrigerators, chest freezers and residential air conditioners, delivering average efficiency improvements above 30%. It also includes the conversion of a compressor factory to inverter and natural refrigerant technology, achieving 35% efficiency gains and phasing down 200 metric tonnes of HFC-134a, potent greenhouse gas, each year. This corresponds to about 1.1 TWh of electricity saved annually.
- Additionally, a new stage of the national programme in Egypt, focusing on ODS phase-out, includes pilot measures to use evaporative cooling technology in the hospitality sector and field testing in multiple climatic zones. It includes the development of guidelines and a national roadmap to support wider adoption of indirect evaporative cooling solutions as part of Egypt's long-term transition to sustainable cooling.
- A pilot project in Bosnia and Herzegovina will upgrade minimum energy performance standards (MEPS) and labelling for refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment. It will test two replacement technologies for commercial refrigeration display cabinets at three sites using hydrocarbons as natural refrigerants and install leak-detection systems to improve operational efficiency. Expected annual energy savings are 6.5 MWh, with reduced operating costs for beneficiaries.
- In the Philippines, UNIDO will support the preparation of a national inventory of waste-controlled substances and developing a comprehensive national plan for their sound management. The work will map existing stocks of unwanted or obsolete ozone-depleting substances and HFCs, assess current disposal practices, and identify national requirements for safe and environmentally responsible destruction. The project also includes the preparation of a management plan for future implementation.

"This is a landmark achievement for UNIDO, this outcome strengthens UNIDO's role as a technical thought leader and implementing partner supporting innovative climate-friendly industrial development and systematic approach to transition of the critical cooling sector' said, Alois Mhlanga, Director of Climate Innovation and Montreal Protocol Division.

Source/image: UNIDO, 5 December 2025

4. NASA explains latest ozone trends beyond Antarctica – EXCLUSIVE

CE Report presents an exclusive interview with Dr. Paul Newman, a senior scientist with the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and leader of the ozone research team at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. In the interview, Newman discusses the

2025 Antarctic ozone hole, the scientific methods used to study it, the impact of the Montreal Protocol, and the outlook for ozone layer recovery.

What scientific methods and measurement tools (satellites, balloons, models) were used to confirm the 2025 ozone hole size and seasonal behavior?

The ozone hole's area is calculated from daily NASA global satellite images observed from the TOMS/OMI/OMPS instruments aboard NASA and NOAA satellites since 1978. The daily calculated values are averaged over the peak period of the Austral spring depletion period in the Antarctic region. See above web link for a plot of these averaged values (black dots) along with the range of values that go into the average (grey bar). The thin horizontal line on the graph shows the 2025 value.

To what extent can the 2025 reduction be attributed to the Montreal Protocol compared to this year's unusual atmospheric conditions?

Based upon our understanding of the chemistry and dynamics of the Antarctic ozone hole, we calculate that the average area has declined by approximately 2.6 million km2 between 2000 and 2025.

Are scientists observing similar recovery trends in other regions of the stratosphere beyond Antarctica?

Ozone recovery has been observed in the upper stratosphere. See Figure ES-5 in https://ozone.unep.org/system/files/documents/Scientific-Assessment-of-Ozone-Depletion-2022-Executive-Summary.pdf

What challenges or risks could slow down or reverse ozone layer recovery in the coming decades?

Extensive use of ozone-depleting substances could reverse this positive trend.

Are there any updated projections on when the ozone layer is expected to fully recover to pre-1980 levels?

The "Scientific Assessment of the Ozone Layer Depletion: 2026" is currently being written and will provide new estimates for ozone recovery next December.

Source: CE-Report, 16 December 2025

5. This is another 'ozone layer' moment – but with methane



Why We Must Urgently Target Methane

In the 1980s, the world faced a terrifying scientific revelation — a gaping hole in the ozone layer, the atmospheric shield that protects us from harmful ultraviolet rays. Fast forward four decades, and a new invisible threat is intensifying: methane. It's colorless,

odorless, and, in climate terms, dangerously potent. Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados has called this our next global wake-up call — another "ozone layer moment." The message? We must act swiftly, or the damage will become irreversible.

Understanding Methane: A Critical Greenhouse Gas

Carbon dioxide often steals the spotlight in climate discussions, but methane plays a stealthier and more immediate role. It's a greenhouse gas that traps about 80 times (EIGHTY TIMES!!!!) more heat than CO_2 over a 20-year period. While its atmospheric lifetime is much shorter — roughly 12 YEARS compared to CENTURIES for carbon dioxide — its short-term impact is tremendous.

Methane comes from multiple sources – with some being natural, like wetlands and termites – others are human-driven: leaking oil and gas infrastructure, livestock digestion, landfills, and rice paddies.

Once released, methane acts like a thermal blanket, accelerating warming at a pace that makes climate tipping points far more likely.

The Ozone Layer: A Historical Precedent

It's worth remembering how the ozone crisis played out. Scientists discovered that chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) — once common in aerosols and refrigerators — were thinning the ozone layer, creating a literal hole over Antarctica. The world responded collectively and quickly. The 1987 Montreal Protocol became a triumph of international diplomacy, uniting nations, industries, and scientists to phase out destructive chemicals.

Barbadian prime minister Mia Mottley frames methane reduction as an urgent, defining climate intervention comparable to the global response that saved the ozone layer. Writing against the backdrop of record global temperatures and the apparent breach of the 1.5°C Paris threshold, Mottley warns that the world is rapidly approaching irreversible climate tipping points, many of which disproportionately threaten small island states like Barbados. She highlights the loss of warm-water coral reefs as a tipping point already crossed, with others—such as ice sheet collapse and ocean current disruption—fast approaching.

Mottley argues that cutting methane emissions is the fastest and most effective way to slow near-term warming, noting that eliminating avoidable methane leaks—particularly from the oil and gas sector—could prevent up to 0.3°C of warming by the 2040s. While voluntary pledges such as the Global Methane Pledge are a start, she stresses they are insufficient and calls for a legally binding international agreement on methane, beginning with oil and gas. Read more…

Source/image: Green.org, 20 December 2025

6. A firsthand account: Bestopuf's experience in India's foam sector phase-out



India's commitment to phasing out hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) in the polyurethane foam sector has resulted in a nationwide transformation for manufacturers across the country. Supported by the Multilateral Fund (MLF), the HCFC phase-out management plan (HPMP) has provided both financial resources and technical support to enterprises moving away from HCFC-141b, a chemical commonly used as a blowing agent in foam production and made India one of the first countries globally to completely ban HCFC-141b – achieving this milestone several years ahead of schedule. Among those undertaking this transition, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) such as Bestopuf – a rigid polyurethane foam insulation manufacturer – offer valuable insights into the practical challenges and opportunities of sector-wide change.

Sector context and the path to transition

At the launch of stage II of the HPMP, the foam sector was identified as a major source of remaining HCFC consumption in India, accounting for around 30 per cent of usage, with SMEs responsible for more than half that share. The Government of India, with assistance from the MLF and supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), set an ambitious goal: to fully phase out HCFC-141b in foam manufacturing. This included not only a national ban on the import and use of HCFC-141b by 2020 but also comprehensive assistance for enterprises across the sector to transition to low-global-warming-potential (GWP) alternatives. Funds were allocated, technical institutions such as the Central Institute of Petrochemicals Engineering and Technology (CIPET) were engaged, and sector-wide outreach began.

For SMEs like Bestopuf, this meant adapting to new technology, manufacturing methods, and stringent regulatory requirements. Bestopuf trialed a range of alternatives – including cyclopentane, hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs), methyl formate, methylal and water-based technologies – each presenting technical challenges such as foam density and shrinkage. With support from CIPET and a local systems house, Bestopuf ultimately adopted methyl formate. Staff committed extensive time and effort to equipment changes and process adaptation.

Partnership in practice: technical and organizational support

Collaboration was central to the project's success. CIPET, India's lead technical institution for the sector, provided training workshops, on-site demonstrations, testing facilities, hands-on training and product validation for Bestopuf, as well as SMEs across the country, as they moved to low-GWP alternatives.

"Having a lab to test product formulations and receive assistance was critical and gave us a lot of confidence as a small enterprise. The people from CIPET, systems houses, UNDP and the government were all very positive, motivated and helpful," says Rahul Mehra, Managing Director at Bestopuf.

Local systems houses – private sector specialists in foam formulation – supported Bestopuf and SMEs sector-wide by developing and supplying HCFC-free formulations, demonstrating new technologies at over 30 SMEs using at least 10 metric tonnes of HCFC-141b, and ensuring a reliable supply chain for alternative technologies. UNDP and India's Ozone Cell, the government office for Montreal Protocol implementation, further coordinated sector-wide support through workshops and practical assistance.

This support network enabled Bestopuf to promote tested, HCFC-free products, enhancing its credibility with climate-conscious customers and resulting in more export enquiries from countries in the region– particularly from Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Product validation through third-party testing became a key selling point, boosting market uptake.

Broader impact: MLF-backed transformation and national achievement

India's foam sector phase-out under stage II achieved major milestones. Of 204 eligible enterprises with a total consumption of 364.36 ODP tonnes (3,312.39 metric tonnes) of HCFC-141b, 160 received technical and financial support for conversion, while an additional 44 transitioned using their own resources. Nearly US $20 million was allocated for these efforts, and over 99 per cent of funds were disbursed. By 2020, consumption of HCFC-141b was fully phased out in line with the national ban, and by 2023 the phase out was sustained and overall HCFC consumption was reduced to 322.44 ODP tonnes – 80 per cent below baseline – even after recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Continue reading…

Source/image: Multilateral Fund for the implementation of the Montreal Protocol, 2 December 2025

7. FGD pledges to strengthen ozone layer protection - Pakistan

KARACHI: Focus Group Discussion (FGD) on Kigali Amendment and Mainstreaming Gender in Montreal Protocol was arranged by Montreal Protocol (MP), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) & Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC&EC) in collaboration with Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology.

Under the leadership & management of Dr. Saleem Janjua, NPM and Chief of the Montreal Protocol - National Ozone Unit (NOU), NOU is performing various important activities at the national and international levels in the domain of ozone layer protection, climate change, and other related areas.

The event featured remarks from distinguished guests, technical presentations, and intensive discussions among participants.

Dr. Mir Shabbar Ali, Dean of Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology, delivered opening remarks and commended UNDP and MoCC&EC for organizing awareness-raising activities on the vital topic of ozone protection.

Dr. Saleem Janjua, NPM of Pakistan's National Ozone Unit, delivered the Guest of Honour address, outlining the rationale for the Focus Group Discussion.

He highlighted Pakistan's recent ratification of the Kigali Amendment as a landmark achievement in ozone protection, emphasizing the critical need to engage key stakeholders, particularly academia, with this commitment.

Dr. Janjua stressed that academic institutions play a vital role in phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances and meeting international targets through policy-oriented research and innovative pilot projects.

The FGD represents part of the Montreal Protocol's proactive efforts to establish and maintain partnerships with academic institutions, ensuring coherent collaboration toward fulfilling Pakistan's international commitments.

The session proceeded with presentations and in-depth technical discussions on Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), the Kigali Amendment, and ozone layer protection. Speakers examined the challenges and solutions for mainstreaming gender in Montreal Protocol-related sectors, and the policy-level reforms required for environmental sustainability.

Stakeholders unanimously acknowledged the Montreal Protocol as a global environmental success story and called for continued collaboration among government, academia, and national and international partners to sustain progress on ozone protection and climate action.

The FGD concluded with a collective pledge to strengthen efforts for ozone layer protection.

Source/image: Business Recorder, 24 December 2025

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

8. EU study recommends excluding refrigerants from PFAS restrictions



EUROPE: The European parliament's Policy Department for Transformation, Innovation and Health has recommended that F-gases should be excludd from future PFAS restrictions, and focus regulatory controls through the existing F-gas regulation.

The study, produced at the request of the Industry, Research and Energy Committee (ITRE), examines how PFAS support EU industrial competitiveness and the potential impact of a full or partial restriction.

Focusing on six key fluoropolymers and F-gases used in aerospace, defence, green energy, and semiconductor sectors, it finds that substitution is often unfeasible, particularly in aerospace, defence and semiconductors. Substantial economic losses and job impacts are predicted under both above restriction options, with risks to EU's global competitiveness.

The report recommends excluding F-gases from the scope of the UPFAS restriction and instead focusing all regulatory control of F-gases into the existing F-gas regulation.

“This will allow fostering the development of alternatives where possible in a more gradual way while still ensuring Europe retains the capacity to innovate in green technologies,” the report states.

The study is in response to proposals from five European member states – Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Denmark – to restrict PFAS substances under the European REACH regulations. The proposal would see bans on single component gases R125, R134a, R143a and the HFOs R1234yf and R1234ze(E), which would affects virtually all new and current lower GWP HFC/HFO refrigerant blends. The most significant refrigerant falling outside the PFAS definition is R32.

The new ITRE report recognises heat pumps as a key green technology to achieve the ambitious targets set out in the European Green Deal and Fit-for-55 programme, and that, while alternatives using non-fluorinated gases are available, they are still a developing technology and not a universal replacement solution at present. In addition, it considers that cost and performance implications for potential alternatives may limit substitution potential.

“Overall, substitution is not currently feasible given economic, technical, and safety constraints,” the report states. It recommends excluding F-gases completely from the scope of a universal PFAS restriction and instead focus all regulatory control of all F-gases into the existing F-gas regulation.

“The current F-gas Regulation covers many F-gases and many of their uses on an individual regulatory basis and there is already a mechanism built into this regulation to ensure updates and revisions to reflect current technologies and alternatives within Europe,” the report says.

It maintains that the existing F-gas regulation would allow for a more “nuanced approach” to regulating and phasing down the use of F-gases, while fostering the development of alternatives in a more gradual way.

This, the study suggests, would be far less disruptive to European industry, while still ensuring Europe retains the ability and capacity to innovate in green technologies.

Source/image: Cooling Post, 20 December 2025

9. GIZ Proklima updates online training on natural refrigerants

GIZ Proklima has launched an updated version of its “Cool Training” online course, available on the Atingi virtual learning platform. The programme, supported by the German government and other donors, aims to expand knowledge on sustainable refrigeration and the use of natural refrigerants, especially in developing and emerging countries.
The updated course features improved navigation and enhanced interactive content. It is structured into two modules: “Refrigeration Basics” and “Safe Handling of Natural Refrigerants.” Each module includes a core video, a technical glossary, quizzes, and short games to support the learning process.

The self-paced course takes between 120 and 180 minutes to complete. Participants who pass the final tests in both modules receive a Certificate of Completion. While primarily designed for technicians, trainers, and National Ozone Unit representatives, the training is open to all interested users.

Courses are available in English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese. Users can access them by registering on the Atingi platform and searching for “Cool Training.”

Source: RefIndustry, 20 December 2025

10. 48 tonnes of F-gas seized in Spanish raids



SPAIN: Authorities in Spain claim to have dismantled a criminal group said to be responsible for the illicit marketing of fluorinated gases.

A joint operation involving the customs surveillance officers and the national police carried out 11 raids in Alicante, Valencia and Madrid, and seized 4,781 cylinders containing 48,515kg of F-gases. The market value of the seized material has been estimated at approximately €3m.

So far, five people have been arrested as alleged perpetrators of crimes against the environment, smuggling, fraud and belonging to a criminal group.

The criminal network is said to have been operating in Spain since 2023. The nine companies involved were said to be dedicated to introducing fluorinated gases into the Spanish and international market without the corresponding authorisation or environmental or fiscal control. Although the refrigerants involved were not revealed by the police, the haul is said to have included gases that are not currently permitted.

The investigation remains open, and further inspections or arrests have not been ruled out.

The investigation has also revealed significant financial transactions linked to the criminal network, with economic operations exceeding €10m. Currently, the possible commission of other illegal acts such as money laundering or tax evasion is being analysed.

Image/source: Cooling Post, 19 December 2025

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

11. Latin America Steps Up: Ozone Officers Gather in Quito to Advance Montreal Protocol and Kigali Commitments

Quito, Ecuador, 21 November 2025 – More than 15 countries from Latin America gathered in Quito from 18 to 20 November 2025 for the Thematic Meeting of Latin America Ozone Networks. The event was organised by UNEP OzonAction in close cooperation with the Government of Ecuador and supported financially by the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol. The meeting aimed to strengthen regional collaboration on the implementation of the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment, with a strong focus on the challenges in the implementation of the HCFC phase-out and HFC phase-down strategies, including energy-efficiency, banks of unwanted controlled substances, and other related issues.



Hosted by the Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, and Investment of Ecuador, the three-day programme combined plenary exchanges, expert interventions and technical visits, including a field mission to the National Polytechnic School and a tour of the Distribution Center (CEDI) facilities to review emerging technologies in the refrigeration and air-conditioning (RAC) sector.

Dr. Silvana Peñaherrera, Undersecretary of Competitiveness at Ecuador's Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade and Investment, highlighted: "Ecuador is honoured to host this regional dialogue. Enhanced technical cooperation is key for turning environmental commitments into real benefits for industry, users and the climate. The insights shared today strengthen our resolve to drive a safe and competitive transition in the RAC sector."

A regional effort to strengthen compliance and innovation

Participants reviewed key outcomes from the 47th Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG47) and the 37th Meeting of the Parties (MOP37), discussed upcoming priorities for the 97th Executive Committee Meeting, and exchanged experiences in the implementation of HCFC Phase-out Plans (HPMPs) and Kigali Implementation Plans (KIPs) across the region. Sessions addressed national regulatory alignment, circular economy approaches in RAC, new industrial technologies, and opportunities for integrating Montreal Protocol actions into countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Implementing agencies, including UNEP, UNDP, UNIDO, GIZ, as well as independent experts, contributed with updates on regional initiatives, new technologies in foam formulations, digitalisation in refrigeration, and lessons learned from other projects funded beyond the Multilateral Fund.

"This meeting reaffirms the region's strong commitment to the Montreal Protocol. Through the exchange of knowledge and the development of coordinated approaches, Latin American countries are strengthening their capacity to address emerging challenges, accelerate the phase-down of HFCs while addressing the phase-out of HCFCs, and advance sustainable, energy-efficient cooling solutions," stated Marco Pinzon, Regional Network Coordinator for Latin America.

The meeting featured a dedicated session on crafting effective communication strategies for National Ozone Units (NOUs). The UNEP OzonAction presentation emphasized that a well-structured internal communications process enables NOUs to save time, optimize budgets, and maximize available resources—while ensuring consistent, impactful messaging on Montreal Protocol activities. This session was complemented by national case studies from Panama and Venezuela, showcasing practical approaches and lessons learned. Continue reading…

Source/Image: UNEP OzonAction, 1 December 2025

12. Caribbean ODS Banks Workshop Builds Momentum for Sound Management of ODS and HFC Banks



Panama City, Panama, 10 October 2025 - The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) OzonAction Compliance Assistance Programme (CAP) Caribbean Network convened the Caribbean Regional ODS Banks Workshop for National Ozone Officers and National ODS Banks Consultants from 6 to 10 October 2025 in Panama City, Panama. The workshop was delivered under UNEP OzonAction's CAP Work Programme with financial support from the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol.

The week-long event brought together National Ozone Officers and Assistants from 14 Caribbean countries, including National ODS Consultants, technical experts, and partners. The workshop totaled thirty-seven (37) participants, with twenty-one (21) female participants, accounting for approximately 57 percent of the attendees.

Speaking at the opening of the Workshop, Mrs. Donnalyn Charles, Montreal Protocol Regional Coordinator for the Caribbean, reaffirmed UNEP OzonActiion's commitment to supporting countries as they strengthen national mechanisms for data collection and end-of-life refrigerant management. She emphasized the importance of collaboration, noting that "The work being undertaken here will help countries build the foundations needed for future policies, partnerships, and investments that protect the ozone layer and contribute to climate benefits."

The workshop supported countries in advancing their commitments under the Montreal Protocol by strengthening their national capacity to implement their Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Banks Projects, which will result in the development of an Inventory of Banks and an Action Plan for the collection, transport, and disposal of these ODS and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

The aim of the workshop was also to enhance the participants' national readiness for implementing Decision 91/66 of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund. Through practical guidance and tailored support, the workshop assisted countries in developing the systems and tools needed to complete their national inventories and prepare comprehensive national action plans for long-term refrigerant lifecycle management.

Countries were supported in strengthening their understanding of ODS Inventory Banks methodologies, improving national data collection practices, and integrating lifecycle refrigerant management (LRM) into existing planning frameworks. Workshop sessions introduced stakeholder mapping exercises, practical inventory development tools, and fostered discussions on regionally relevant challenges such as data gaps, misclassification, and limited recovery infrastructure. Further, the workshop addressed the transboundary movement of refrigerant waste and other synergies with the Basel Convention. Practical examples of ODS and HFC banks' inventories from other regions and participating countries were also shared, enabling participants to examine real methodologies, survey instruments, and data collection approaches.

Source/image: UNEP OzonAction, 21 November 2025

13. Brazil opens public consultation on new rule for import control of regulated substances



The Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) has launched a public consultation on the draft of a new Normative Instruction (IN) aimed at strengthening and modernizing the control of imports of substances regulated under the Montreal Protocol.

The proposal seeks to consolidate existing obligations and prohibitions in Brazil related to these substances, define annual import limits for hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and establish a management model and national schedule for phase-out and reduction. The targets align with Brazilian legislation, Decision XIX/6, and the Kigali Amendment, enacted under Decree No. 11.666/2023.

Key proposed improvements include regulatory simplification through the consolidation of multiple rules into a single instrument and enhanced enforcement against informal trade. The regulation would require that all operations be carried out exclusively by legal entities (with CNPJ), ensuring traceability and alignment with global environmental goals.

The management of the technical reserve would be updated using the concepts of "economic unit" and "combined consumption mechanism," aimed at preventing undue concentration, reducing costs, and streamlining processes. The proposal also introduces fixed limits for access to HFC reserves, transparent redistribution of unused quotas, and operational adjustments such as optimized container use and a monthly cycle for technical reserve requests.

The public consultation is open from December 10, 2025, to January 16, 2026. Stakeholders, including companies, experts, and civil society organizations, are invited to submit comments via an online form available on the official government platform.

According to IBAMA, the initiative reinforces Brazil's commitment to protecting the ozone layer and mitigating climate change, supporting both the Brazilian HCFC Phase-out Management Plan and the HFC Consumption Reduction Program.

To participate in the Public Consultation and submit your contributions, please visit: https://brasilparticipativo.presidencia.gov.br/processes/consolidacaodenormasprotocolodemontreal

Source/image: Refindustry Refrigeration Tech Hub, 26 December 2025

14. Verra Releases Revised Methodology for the Destruction of Ozone-Depleting Substances and Hydrofluorocarbons



Verra has released *VM0016 Destruction of Ozone-Depleting Substances and Hydrofluorocarbons, v2.0* in the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program. This comprises a major revision to *VM0016 Recovery and Destruction of Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS) from Products, v1.1*, following a public consultation. With this new version, Verra becomes the first carbon crediting program with a methodology for addressing the destruction of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) from specific sources in addition to ODS.

VM0016, v2.0 quantifies the greenhouse gas emission reductions from project activities that recover and/or collect ozone-depleting substances or hydrofluorocarbons from products (e.g., refrigerants, blowing agents, fire suppression agents, and propellants) and subsequently destroy them. Project activities prevent the partial or total atmospheric release of ODS or HFC that would have occurred in the baseline scenario.

This methodology is applicable to all countries that are Parties to the Montreal Protocol, including both Article 5 and non-Article 5 countries. This new version incorporates updates to align it with the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, which controls ozone-depleting substances globally. It also expands the applicability of the methodology by allowing the destruction of the following substances and products that were not previously included:

- Hydrofluorocarbons
- Intact foams
- Fire suppressants and propellants
- Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) and HFCs in stockpile, under specific conditions

Other changes include the adoption of a VCS tool for additionality assessment (*VT0008*) and clarifications to requirements related to sampling, analysis, container characteristics, mixed substances, etc.

Verra has also released an updated version of the associated VCS module, *VMD0048*. The new version, *VMD0048 Activity Method for the Determination of Additionality for Recovered and Stockpiled ODS Refrigerants, v2.0*, now includes HCFCs in its positive list of activities that are deemed automatically additional.

Verra wishes to thank A-GAS (external) and Tradewater (external) for providing funding to support the development of these revisions.* Thank you also to ICF International (external) for leading on technical development.

Implications for Projects

- Projects may apply the new versions immediately.
- The previous versions of the methodology and module will become inactive on January 1, 2027.
- Projects seeking registration or crediting period renewal under *VM0016, v1.1* and *VMD0048, v1.0* must submit a registration request or crediting period renewal request by December 31, 2026. Those projects may continue to use *VM0016, v1.1* during the upcoming crediting period but must update to the most recent version of *VM0016* at their next crediting period renewal.

Source/image: Verra, 15 December 2025

RESOURCES

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